

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 EUR-25 TRSE-00 EB-11

DRC-01 L-03 H-03 AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-19 /153 W

----- 048275

R 310700Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2735

INFO SECDEF ISA/DSAA WASHDC

USCINCEUR ECJ4/7 VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3596

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS MO

SUBJ: FAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM - MOROCCO (U)

REF: A. STATE 159807

B. STATE 244607

C. RABAT 2868

D. SECDEF ASD:ISA 1538

1. (C) YOUR SEARCHING MESSAGE (REF A) VERY MUCH APPRECIATED HERE AND PROVIDES US OPPORTUNITY TO ONCE AGAIN BRING TO LIGHT SEVERAL BASIC PREMISES ON WHICH WE ARE BASING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE FAR MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY. YOUR REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND ADVICE ARE TREATED TOPICALLY FOR SAKE OF CLARITY.

2. (C) TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TAT (REF B) REMAIN VERY CLEAR IN OUR VIEW. BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE TO NOTE THAT THE LETTERS OF OFFER ALREADY SIGNED BY THE GOM AND THOSE REQUESTED ARE NOT DEPENDENT UPON U.S. FINANCING. FURTHER, THE MOROCCANS HAVE NOT YET REFUSED ANY L/OS FOR REASONS OF EXCESSIVE LEAD TIME. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY HAVE ACCEPTED A SUBSTITUTE TANK (I.E., THE M48A3 IN LIEU OF M60), AND INTERIM ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY (I.E., LAW WHILE AWAITING OFFER OF TOW) AND THE AIM 9-B INSTEAD OF MORE SOPHISTICATED TYPES.

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ALSO WORTH NOTING IS THE FACT THEY ARE ALREADY LOOKING TO OTHER

FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS FOR SOME OF THEIR SUPPLY AND FINANCING. THEY HAVE PURCHASED 36 MORE HELICOPTERS FROM ITALIANS WITH ITALIAN CREDIT, THEY ARE NOW PROPOSING PURCHASE OF 40 HELICOPTERS FROM THE FRENCH WITH FRENCH CREDIT AND HAVE ARRANGED A \$50 MILLION CREDIT PACKAGE FROM SAUDIS WITH WHICH THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO BUY AMERICAN ARMS. SIGNIFICANTLY, UP TO NOW, NO US CREDIT HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE IN TERMS THAT COMPETE WITH THESE OTHER SOURCES. FY 74 FMS CREDIT ALREADY COMMITTED TO RMAF EQUIPMENT IN PRIOR YEAR PROGRAMS. ALSO IN CONNECTION YOUR COMMENTS ON TERMS OF REFERENCE, THE AMOUNTS OF MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE MOROCCAN PLANS ARE VERY MODEST WHEN COMPARED TO IN-BEING FORCES OF ALGERIA. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE ANY SEMBLANCE OF A MATERIALIZING MILITARY THREAT IN THAT REGARD.

3. (C) THE LIMITATIONS ON U.S. FINANCING TO WHICH YOU REFER ARE, ON THE OTHER HAND, A REAL CAUSE FOR CONCERN AS WELL AS PUZZLEMENT FOR US. THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WITH WHICH WE ARE WORKING IS REALLY QUITE SMALL COMPARED TO OTHER ENDEAVORS IN THIS AREA. MORE IMPORTANTLY, NO GRANT AID IS INVOLVED. NATURALLY, GOM GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT ASSUMING LONG TERM FINANCING OBLIGATIONS AT INTEREST RATES LIKE THOSE OFFERED IN GUARANTEED AND UNGUARANTEED CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS WITH U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR. ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN PERSPECTIVE IN THIS REGARD IN THAT HASSAN NOT ASKING FOR A DOLE OR RECOMPENSE FOR VARIOUS FACILITIES HERE.

QUITE TO CONTRARY IS FACT HE BECOMING MORE ACCOMMODATING AND FORTHCOMING IN THESE AREAS. BELIEVE THIS WORTH GUARDING.

4. (C) AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT IS SUBJECT OF WHICH WE VERY MUCH AWARE AND WE ARE COMPLETELY SYMPATHETIC WITH U.S. SERVICES NEEDS. HOWEVER, BELIEVE THIS IS SUBJECT WHICH IS BEST TREATED OBJECTIVELY AND HANDLED ON PRIORITY BASIS. WE WILLING TO PURSUE COURSE SELECTED BY DEPARTMENT AFTER APPROPRIATE DETERMINATION OF PRIORITY IS MADE. WE VERY AWARE OF PROBLEMS OF OVER-IDENTIFICATION AND WE CONTENT TO CONTINUE MAKING OUR CASE AND ALLOWING IT TO REST ON MERIT. HOWEVER, WE ON CONSTANT GUARD AGAINST FEELINGS OF NEGATIVISM. RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED ABILITY OF U.S. ARMY COORDINATED BY DOD TO PRODUCE IN HURRY VERY REASSURING AND AFFIRMS CONFIDENCE WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD IN DECISION PROCESS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS.

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5. (C) REQUEST FOR TRAINING SURVEY TEAM (REF C) IS EXACTLY IN ACCORD WITH THE PARTAIN REPORT. THIS IS PRECISELY THE MEDIUM THAT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH AN ORDERLY APPROACH TO WHATEVER DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT WITH THE MOROCCANS WE ARE TO HAVE. IT IS THROUGH THIS TEAM THAT TRAINING MILESTONES AND LEAD TIMES ARE TO BE MARRIED AND LONG TERM LETTERS OF OFFER ARE TO BE WRITTEN. THE PRESENT MUSLO STAFF IS NOT CAPABLE OF FURNISHING THE EXPANSIVE

EXPERTISE REQUIRED TO PREPARE THIS PLAN AND MUST DEPEND UPON SPECIALISTS TO OUTLINE THE REQUIREMENTS. THIS TEAM MUST PROVIDE BOTH THE MOROCCANS AND MUSLO EXACT DATA ON TRAINING DETAIL AND THE NECESSARY LEAD TIMES. BASED UPON THAT INFORMATION, EQUIPMENT LEAD TIMES CAN SUBSEQUENTLY BE SCHEDULED OR NEGOTIATED ON CASE BY CASE BASIS. OPINION HERE IS THAT PROGRAM SHOULD NOT CONTINUE WITHOUT THIS INPUT OF PLANNING DATA.

6. (C) IN SUMMARY, THE ISSUES IN WHICH YOU EXPRESSED CONCERN ARE ALSO OF CONCERN TO US HERE IN MISSION. THEY HAVE ALL BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. BELIEVE THAT THE MOROCCANS HAVE AGREED TO AS MUCH AS THEY WILL AT THIS POINT. THEY MUST BY NOW WONDER IF WE INTEND TO PLAY BALL OR TALK. WE HAVE THUS FAR NOT INVESTED ANYTHING IN PROGRAM OTHER THAN PARTAIN REPORT AND LENGTHY EXPLANATIONS OF U.S. EQUIPMENT THAT IS IN SHORT SUPPLY. PROBLEM FOR US HERE IS NO LONGER A BALANCING ACT BUT A WEIGHT LIFTING CONTEST. IN MOROCCANS' EYES WE PROBABLY SEEM NOT TO BE CARRYING OURS.

7. (C) WE REMAIN DESIROUS OF FOLLOWING GRADUAL PROGRAM OUTLINED BY PARTAIN REPORT BUT FEEL NEED TO ESTABLISH CLEAR PATH FOR ALL TO FOLLOW. URGE YOUR EARLY APPROVAL OF TRAINING SURVEY TEAM AND PREPARATION OF REQUESTED LETTERS OF OFFER.
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